(b) if so, whether the programme aims at providing the poorest of the rural, power and income sources that would push them above poverty line;

(c) whether the CAG report has made a number of reasons responsible for its failures;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry have examined the same; and

(e) what are the steps Government propose to take to remove the shortcomings and make it a succuess in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) The CAG of India has pointed out a number of lacunae and deviations at the field level in adhering to guidelines formulated by this Ministry for Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

(b) The basic objective of the programme continues to be provision of income generating assets to rural poor families to raise them above the poverty line on a sustained basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) CAG report is presently being examined by the Ministry.

(e) A number of important steps have been taken in the last few months by the Government to remove shortcomings in IRDP. These include:—

(1) Measures to increase the level of investment per family, extension of family credit plan scheme to 213 districts in the country where NABARD have their district office for intensive planning for upliftment of poor families and relaxation of security free credit norms for IRDP beneficiaries.

(2) Revision in infrastructural norms by giving greater flexbility and freedom at the district level to implement infrastructural projects which would improve viability of IRDP activities.

(3) Rigorous monitoring and review of the programme through periodic visits of Officers of the Ministry to states under the Area Officers scheme, and

(4) Setting up of a High Powered Committee under RBI to review problems related to credit for IRDP.

Employment Assurance Scheme in Audhra Pradesh

1531. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Employment Assurance Scheme which was introduced in 1993-94;

(b) whether it was fully implemented in the 260 districts;

(c) in how many districts in Andhra Pradesh this scheme has been implemented;

(d) whether this programme will be extended to more districts in Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT): SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The objective of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is to provide assured employment for 100 days during lean Agricultural season, in manual work to all able bodied rural poor over 18 years and below 60 years of age, who are in need and are desirous of work. All such persons are required to get themselvs registered with the village Panchayat where they are residing. Persons Seeking work under EAS are given employment within the area of the Block on works started from the shelf of projects prepared for this purpose by the Implementing Authority.

EAS is being implemented in 1778 Blocks in 261 districts of the country (including 120 Blocks in 16 districts of Andhra Pradesh), where the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is in operation.

(d) and (e) No proposal to extend EAS to more districts of Andhra Pradesh is under consideration, for the time being.

Development of Wasteland in Orissa

1532. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the wasteland in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise, and

(c) the steps taken for the development of wasteland in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Department of Wasteland Development has commissioned National Wastelands Identification Project with the collaboration of the National Remote Sensing Agency. Under this project 237 districts in the country having more than 5 per cent of the geographical areas as wastelands have been mapped. However, precise information regarding the whole country is not yet available, but according to one estimate, out of the country's total landmass of 329 million hectares, the extent of wastelands in the country is 129.5 million hectares. Statewise details of non-forest and forest wastelands in the country are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Department of Wastelands Development has taken steps to launch various schemes/programmes for development of wastelands in the State of Orissa. The schemes undertaken during 1992-93 & 1993-94 for development of wastelands in non-forest areas in Orissa is given below:

Statement

Scheme	No. of Projects Sanctioned (No.)	Funds approved (Rs. lakhs)	Funds Released (Rs. lakhs)
1. Integrated Wastelands Dev. Project :			
1992-93	2	269.00	91.00
1993-94	4	1145.00	183.00
2. Technology Dev. Extension & Training :			
1992-93	1	2.06	1.69
1993-94	1	3.52	0.59
3. Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agency :			
1992-93	1	1.50	1.50
1993-94	..	..	..
TOTAL :	9	1421.08	277.78